



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



April 1998

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons	Estimated Damage	Character of Storm
					Killed	Property	Crops

### MICHIGAN, East

#### Bay County

Bay City	01	1400EST			0	0		
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**Thunderstorm Wind (G52)**

#### Genesee County

Flint	01	1415EST			0	0		
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**Thunderstorm Wind (G52)**

#### Tuscola County

1 S Millington	01	1415EST			0	0		
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**Thunderstorm Wind (G52)**

A fast-moving line of showers with embedded thunderstorms crossed southeast lower Michigan in association with a cold front. A power pole was downed in Bay City. In Flint, power lines were downed, and the roof was blown off of a small outbuilding. Signs were blown down and a barn was destroyed in southwest Tuscola County. The wind gusted to near severe levels across much of southeast lower Michigan.

#### MIZ048

<b>Bay</b>					0	0		
	09	0900EST 1500EST					4K	<b>High Wind (G45)</b>

#### MIZ048-070

<b>Bay - Macomb</b>					0	0		
	09	0900EST 2300EST						<b>Flood</b>

Strong northeast winds produced some problems near the lakeshores of Bay and Macomb Counties. From late morning through late afternoon, gusts off of Saginaw Bay along the Bay County shore reached near 50 mph. A large tree was downed onto a minivan, destroying it. Power lines were downed, causing 110 Consumers Power customers to lose power.

These winds also produced lakeshore flooding in Bay County. The yards of about a dozen homes were flooded, as were many lakeshore parks. A mobile home park saw some minor flooding. Most of the problems were located in Bangor Township. However, significant beach erosion also took place near Pinconning. A portion of a county park parking lot was swallowed by Saginaw Bay.

Some minor lakeshore flooding also took place along Lake St. Clair in Macomb County. Some lakeshore roads saw high water as 6 foot waves came crashing over seawalls.

#### MIZ076-083

<b>Wayne - Monroe</b>					0	0		
	09	1100EST					515K	<b>Flood</b>
	10	0600EST						

Perhaps the worst lakeshore flood on western Lake Erie in 25 years developed rapidly on the 9th. Low pressure intensified along the Indiana-Ohio border on the morning of the 9th, and moved to near Cleveland, Ohio by evening. Lake Erie water levels were already rather high due to the wet winter and early spring. Northeast gales to 45 knots (52 mph) caused that water to pile up in the shallow western basin of the lake. The Coast Guard station in Toledo, Ohio recorded a maximum water level of about 100 inches above chart datum. This was the highest level recorded since the all-time record of 110 inches, set exactly 25 years previous, on April 9th, 1973.

On top of the extremely high lake level were waves as high as 13 feet, produced by the strong northeast gales. The high water level and wave action caused considerable damage along the Monroe County shoreline. Further compounding the problem was the heavy rain seen that day - as the fire department in the city of Monroe reported 2.03 inches of rain, while 1.79 inches fell in Dundee. With such exceptionally high lake levels, runoff from the heavy rain had nowhere to go. The flooding affected all of the lakeshore communities, including LaSalle Township, Morin Point, Estral Beach, and Luna Pier. Monroe Township got away with only a few problems, due to a dike system constructed after the 1973 flood.

Over 150 properties in Monroe County were damaged, and 120 people were evacuated. Numerous breakwalls and dikes, some constructed of concrete or steel, were destroyed. Numerous streets became impassable, with water three feet deep in Estral Beach. Waves pounded against the roofs of some lakeshore homes. Longtime residents, comparing this flood with the 1973 record flood, noted that although the water level did not get quite as high this time, the floodwaters surged in off Lake Erie much faster. Boats had to be used to get some students home from school in the afternoon.

Backwater flooding took place near the mouth of the River Raisin, where a street was flooded and closed in the city of Monroe.



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### MICHIGAN, East

Water levels also became very high near the mouth of the Detroit River in southeast Wayne County. At Gibraltar, the water level was measured at 81 inches above chart datum. This produced substantial flooding along the Gibraltar shoreline, where water rose to the tops of fire hydrants. Serious flooding also took place on some of the smaller islands in the Detroit River, including Horse, Hamburg, and Elba Islands. Flooding was less widespread on the big island of Grosse Ile, where a couple of riverside roads were inundated.

#### MIZ053

#### Saginaw

13	1415EST				0	0	2K		<b>High Wind (G40)</b>
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A gust of wind downed an old willow tree in Carrollton Township, two miles north of the city of Saginaw. Part of the tree went through the windshield of a van parked nearby.

#### Saginaw County

Saginaw	16	1430EST			0	0			<b>Hail (0.75)</b>
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#### Saginaw County

6 N Saginaw	16	1445EST			0	0	1K		<b>Lightning</b>
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#### Shiawassee County

7 E Owosso	16	1445EST			0	0			<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G52)</b>
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#### Genesee County

Fenton	16	1514EST			0	0			<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G52)</b>
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#### Tuscola County

3 W Caro	16	1515EST			0	0			<b>Hail (0.75)</b>
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#### Oakland County

4 E Holly	16	1530EST			0	0			<b>Hail (1.75)</b>
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#### Oakland County

4 E Holly	16	1530EST			0	0			<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G52)</b>
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#### Tuscola County

7 E Caro	16	1545EST			0	0	15K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G69)</b>
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#### Sanilac County

1.5 SE Sandusky	16	1547EST			0	0			<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G52)</b>
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#### Sanilac County

Shabbona	16	1547EST			0	0	3K		<b>Thunderstorm Wind (G52)</b>
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#### Sanilac County

Carsonville to Port Sanilac	16	1555EST 1600EST			0	0			<b>Hail (1.75)</b>
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#### Sanilac County

3 S Carsonville to Port Sanilac	16	1557EST 1605EST	7.5	100	0	0	350K		<b>Tornado (F1)</b>
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#### Lapeer County

Lapeer	16	1600EST			0	0			<b>Hail (0.75)</b>
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#### St. Clair County

Yale	16	1624EST			0	0			<b>Hail (0.75)</b>
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#### Sanilac County

5 W Crosswell	16	1630EST			0	0			<b>Hail (1.75)</b>
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A warm front moved north into southern Michigan on the morning of the 16th, as an area of low pressure moved northeast into the southwest corner of the state. Plentiful sunshine during the afternoon allowed for rapid destabilization, and a number of severe thunderstorms developed near the warm front. Thunderstorm activity was mostly multicellular in nature.

The first severe thunderstorm of the day crossed Saginaw and Midland Counties, and produced dime-sized hail in the city of Saginaw. A car was struck by lightning just north of the Zilwaukee Bridge on I-75, damaging ham radio equipment and flattening a tire. A separate storm blew over a corn crib in eastern Shiawassee County, while spotters reported severe winds with another thunderstorm in Fenton. The Fenton storm then produced golfball-sized hail and downed trees east of Holly.

A northwest-southeast oriented band of thunderstorms developed in the Thumb area, and these storms provided the majority of



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### MICHIGAN, East

severe weather during the late afternoon hours. Most of the storms within this band were pulse-type storms, producing dime-sized hail and severe downbursts at isolated locations. A strong downburst took place in eastern Tuscola County, where a horse barn was leveled, trees were uprooted, siding of a nearby house and garage was damaged, and a children's swing set was wrapped around a tree. The same decaying storm moved into Evergreen Township in Sanilac County, where it heavily damaged a barn and tore the roofing off of a shed. An isolated storm behind this band produced some dime-sized hail in Lapeer.

The southernmost storm of this band would become the most potent storm of the day. It acquired supercell characteristics as it moved east across Sanilac County. This storm first caused damage when it downed trees southeast of Sandusky. Rotation in the storm continued to intensify, and a tornado formed between Carsonville and Applegate - the first tornado in Sanilac County since September 2, 1984. The tornado had a continual damage path from its first touchdown until it moved out over Lake Huron at Port Sanilac. Ping-pong to golfball-sized hail preceded the tornado by a few minutes from Carsonville to Port Sanilac. Four homes, ten barns, five silos, and a grain bin were destroyed. Twelve homes and six barns were damaged. Significant damage was done to the public marina in Port Sanilac. Two hundred people were left without power overnight. There were no human casualties, but a horse had to be euthanised after it was seriously injured.

The supercell storm put out an outflow boundary, and an isolated severe thunderstorm developed along this boundary after the supercell had moved out over the open lake. This last severe storm produced large hail along the St. Clair - Sanilac county line.